

Carter Beverly to Andrew Jackson, June 27, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

CARTER BEVERLEY TO JACKSON.¹

¹ Jackson did not reply to this letter, probably because he did not think it prudent to have confidential letters in the hands of a man like Beverley. Nov. 1, 1827, Carter Beverley wrote Jackson another long letter, filled with weak opinions and complaints. Jackson did not reply to it nor to another from the same source dated Jan. 20, 1828, and transmitted through the hands of Jackson's intimate friend, Sam Houston. These letters are in the Jackson MSS.

Wheeling, Va. , June 27, 1827.

Dear Sir, Since the date of my letters two days ago, one inclos'd to Mr. James Edmonson of Nashville wi. sundry documents, (and the postage pd. upon it,) and the other directed to you, I have recd. a letter from the Honble Judge Caldwell of this place, directed to Mr. Noah Zane, a resident here also, and inclos'd to me by his letter. It is a full detail of Mr. Clay's denial on sunday last, before them all, of the whole of the charges contain'd in your letter, both agt. him and his Friends. I have sent an attested copy of it by this day's mail, to Mr. Duff Green. of Washington City, to appear immediately in the Telegraph.

Your declarations are pretty generally believ'd; and Mr. Clay and the Administration are daily sinking in the public opinion. Under the whole aspect of the business, the people will not disbelieve the fact, that strong attempts *were projected among* them, to get you over to them. Moreover, they believe in the negotiation between Mr. Adams and him. Your candor and openness to me in your letter, gives great satisfaction, and the prompt manner

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in which you met my letter from Louisville is equally pleasing to them. The partizans of the *Coalition* , had com menc'd a report, to impress the community wi. a total disbelief of me; and had gone so far, as to say, that you *never would in any shape reiterate the subject of my letter to my Friend in Fayette—ville*. The arrival of yr. letter consequently, threw them all into deep consternation; especially, as the morning after, Mr. Clay was to be here, and did arrive. The course taken wi. your letter by Mr. Zane, was a scandalous and unprecedented liberty: I have expos'd both him, Mr. Clay and the Junto upon their conduct regarding it; and sent it to Mr Green to appear in the Telegraph, that the public may veiw the grossness and vile impudence of their conduct, and that you may be satisfied of the advantage taken of my confidence in Mr. Zane, a man far advanc'd in life as he is, and of very high character. A Gentleman has just arriv'd in this neighborhood from Florida, a Mr. Floyd; and openly states, after reading a copy of yr. letter to me, that he hear'd Colo. Gadsden in Florida, say distinctly, that he had communicated to you, exactly what you wrote me; Floyd is consider'd a young man of considerable respectability, and he is relied, upon *for this fact*. Colo. Gadsden was a member then from South Carolina, and he is a man whose character stands high; of course, yr. letter is most importantly supported *at once*. This additional matter, is making great way among the people here, and every credit given to the charges.

That you may be fully and fairly convinc'd, that I have been most innocently drawn into this business, I beg leave to quote to you, part of a letter just recd. from my Friend in Fayetteville N. C. upon the subject of my letter to him, and his disclosure of it.

Fayetteville N. Carolina 14th June 1827.

Copy

My Dear Sir, I have had the pleasure to receive your most esteem'd favors, from Natchez and Cincinati, (that from Louisville not yet to hand). They have interested me much. Perhaps I did wrong in permitting the editor of the “Observer”, to publish an extract of your

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letter of march from Nashville; at any rate, I did it without due consideration of the subject, which is a poor excuse for a man of 57. Mr. Hale (the editor) is a young man of most estimable qualities, and a great favorite wi. me, and I am indebted to him for very many of the agreeable hours that I have pass'd here. When I recd. your letter, I was so far on my way to his reading room, I had no hesitation in shewing him your letter, as a friend, but without the smallest intention, at the time of committing any part of it to the press. Some days after, we spoke on the subject of printing the extract; which subsequently appear'd. Our reasoning was as follows. The charge agt. Mr. Clay was a grave one indeed. If true, he was unworthy of the confidence or respect of the american public. If false, he would and ought to prove it so. Genl. Jackson made the statement to you, neither in private or in confidence—(at least several persons were present). He was either then, under a delusion of a serious nature, produc'd by misstatements of those in whom he confided; or he could prove 26 the charge. If the first, as he is a man of high honorable character, he would be pleas'd to be satisfied of his error; If the second, he appear'd, as he ought, to seek opportunities before Gentlemen of high character, to name the circumstances; that he might be call'd upon to substantiate the charge; or, he would not have nam'd it to you, in presence of so many gentlemen, or in fact at all. Besides, the charge had gone the rounds of the public prints, at least once before, and I think twice. Hence, I did not suppose it would occupy the whole public as it has done, and I apprehend produc'd to you a great deal of trouble and anxiety of mind. If either, I shall regret it sorely. I am Dr. Sir Sincerely yr friend

I trust, should any apprehensions have at all crept upon yr. mind, as to my honorable intention towards you in this unlook'd for, and accidental, business; you will readily throw it off, and believe that it was unsought for, and altogether unexpected by me: The zeal and honor of my Friend, emboldened him, from his high opinion of yr. integrity and good Judgement, to develope it. Your letter to me exculpating me so frankly, and so greatly to yr. credit, affords me the very utmost relief. I have been most severely goaded indeed, by a junto of low-liv'd hireling printers in every diriction of this western, and north western

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section of the union, and by a numerous, body of time serving creatures to the Coalition. They are however now completely prostrated, and are put down, and I trust and hope most effectually and permanently, wi. their whole and entire corrupt Body.

The people are speaking strongly and confidently of this matter being brought fully and fairly before the next Congress: That Mr. Adams ought to be impeach'd, and made to answer to the nation for so great a degradation upon the people: He stands charg'd wi. gross and foul corruption; and ought to be held accountable for it. This idea is gaining ground very rapidly: I see that Ritchie of the Richd. Enquirer, has already hinted at this course, as one that ought, and will be taken. Mr. Clay acknowledg'd here at Mr. Zane's House on sunday, that he had long heard of *your* free speaking, and charges upon him, reiterated by yr. Friends; but, that he never could *before*, get at it in any tangible form. He now had at last gotten it under full authority, and was enabled thereby to confront it.

I told the Gentleman, (who told it to me, Colo. Moses Chaplane) a lawyer of high respectability, and who mention'd it to me, before a mr. Forsythe a merchant here, and mr. Moses Good, a young Lawyer of high character here; that I beg'd him to recollect what he said; for, he would perhaps, have to repeat it hereafter. He said he should not forget it. Thus, you see how very artful Mr. Clay is; for he has all along known of these charges upon him, and he has fain'd ignorance and want of proof; when he *well knew*, you would have, at *any moment* given it to him from under yr. own signature. I mention this, to show you, how cunningly this creature and his coadjutors, and supporters have acted, and will endeavor to persist in, agt. you. They ought to have no quarter given them, but be prostrated if possible.

I must now refer you for all further particulars to the Telegraph, and the other news Papers; for you will, I apprehend, 'ere this reaches you, see the whole matter spread before the Community, wi. severe editorial remarks upon the Chief and his coadjutor. my sincere respects to Mrs. Jackson

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I am Dear Sir, wi. very sincere respect and esteem